

IMPORTANT FROM McCLELLAN.

The Great Union Victories of Monday and Tuesday.

Terrible Loss Among the Rebel Troops.

No Fighting on Wednesday or Thursday.

THE MORALE OF McCLELLAN'S ARMY.

THE VERY LATEST.

All Quiet on the James River on Friday Afternoon.

Death of Colonel Van Wyck.

THE VERY LATEST.

WASHINGTON, July 4, 1862.

General Dix reports the arrival of a large force of five hundred and fifty-three rebel prisoners, being a part of those taken during the recent battles. Among them were several colonels and majors.

General Dix has ordered away all civilians from Fort Monroe, and no persons will be permitted to pass that point or the Army of the Potomac except those connected with the military or naval service.

WASHINGTON, July 5, 1862.

Despatches have been received from General McClellan dated as late as one o'clock P. M. Friday, July 4.

The following is the substance, omitting military details and omissions not proper for present publication:—There had been no fighting since Tuesday night, when the enemy were repulsed with great slaughter.

The army moved to the position now occupied because it afforded superior advantages for the co-operation of the gunboats, of which seventeen are now in the river protecting the flank of our army.

Statements of the casualties in the several battles of eight days cannot yet be furnished.

Our forces were not beaten in any conflict, nor could they be driven from the field by the utmost efforts of the enemy.

No gains have been lost since the engagement on Friday, June 27, when General McClellan's division was at the out-ermost point of the Chickahominy, and the rebel forces were repulsed with great slaughter.

The sick and wounded are being sent to the hospitals. On June 27, when General McClellan's division was at the out-ermost point of the Chickahominy, and the rebel forces were repulsed with great slaughter.

THE FAMOUS SEVEN DAYS IN VIRGINIA.

The movements, actions and contests of the whole body of the Army of the Potomac have been given in our previous issues, but a few details of individual commands will also be of interest to the friends of those concerned, as well as furnish interesting incidents to make up the great volume of the history of the rebellion.

While the great battles of the 26th and 27th were progressing on the extreme right wing of the army, there was more or less fighting along the whole line of the extreme left. The enemy was now everywhere on the offensive. In all these affairs Sumner's corps, which formed our center and flank, played an important part. The sound of cannon on our right grew louder and louder towards evening, and it became evident that we were either coining the rebels on to a trap or that our troops were obliged to retire before them. The fact that our right wing, under General Porter, was retiring, after a most obstinate and bloody resistance, at length became evident.

At six o'clock in the evening when General McClellan ordered two brigades from Sumner's corps to the right to cover the retreat of our forces across the Chickahominy. General Sumner ordered forward the Irish brigade and French brigade. They proceeded at a "double quick," with cheers, and crossed the Chickahominy bridge in five minutes afterwards. Here they met our gallant Irish army, who had been fighting the rebels on to one day, hastily falling back, while the Irish division was still covering the retreat.

Was thrown out to the right; the regulars, under Spike, were ordered to fall back, and the Irish brigade to take their place. As the stream of wounded and dead was hurried to the rear, nothing daunted, our fresh troops rushed forward with the greatest enthusiasm. The rebels, hearing the cheers and seeing the two new brigades deployed before them, hesitated, while all our other battalions reformed in good order and manfully held their ground. The enemy received a volley or two of destructive musketry from the Irish brigade, and French's brigade commenced manœuvring in a menacing attitude on their flank. They then deemed it best to discontinue the pursuit, and fell back beyond the battle field about half a mile off.

Night now closed upon the scene, and so near were the troops to each other after the battle that the Thirtieth Georgia regiment lay down within twenty-five paces of the Eighty-eighth New York regiment, and its adjacent actually, and several other rebels, walked into the lines of the Eighty-eighth, exhausted and astonished to find themselves prisoners of war. Our troops had orders not to pursue the enemy, while the rebels were too much exhausted to continue the combat.

MORNING BROKE CLEAR AND BRILLIANT.

Our gallant troops still held their ground beyond the Chickahominy, while the rebels had retired far toward the position they had held the preceding day. The slaughter on the side of the enemy that day was estimated at 12,000 men, while we lost 6,000 men killed, wounded and missing.

WE HOLD THE BRIDGE.

Early on the morning of the 28th the Irish brigade and French's brigade fell back across the bridge to protect it. This division of General Bykes passed over. This day's division at daylight, in good order and with determined ranks, without the slightest annoyance from the enemy. The rebels showed no disposition to renew the battle, probably imagining that our right had been powerfully reinforced, and desired only to draw them to an ambush across the river. When all the troops had safely passed over the bridge it was blown up by the engineer corps, and the two brigades of General Richardson's division which had covered the retreat retired to their former encampment, and, with the rest of the army, remained contentedly under arms.

General McClellan, who had previously designated transferring his base of operations from the Pamunkey to the James river, now perceived that no time was to be lost in making the change of front, as the new ground gained by the enemy enabled him to threaten our right flank, as well as our communications in the rear. Accordingly the order for the movement was promptly given, and the baggage and supply

trains commenced moving, while a strong force of artillery and cavalry were placed in possession of every ford and bridge along the Chickahominy by which the enemy might effect a crossing before we were fully prepared to receive him. Skirmishing had been briskly maintained by the enemy the previous night, but, becoming fully conscious of the severity of the punishment inflicted upon him, he discontinued his skirmishes on Saturday and Sunday night, the 28th of June, and till Sunday morning.

AT DAYLIGHT ON THE 29TH

Most of the troops had left the breastworks and commenced their march towards the James river. To Gen. Sumner's corps was entrusted the post of honor on the march. They were to cover the retreat. About four o'clock the pickets were called in, and so well were the movements executed that even still the rebels were unconscious of our design, and imagined we were in full force before them. Our troops had not long left their works before the rebels entered them. Our march was slowly but steadily continued, and every precaution taken by Gen. Sumner to guard against an attack on our rear.

WHEN THE ENEMY AGAIN ATTACKED.

The enemy first appeared before us at French Orchard station, on the line of the Richmond and West Point Railroad. General Sedgwick ordered General Burns to prepare to receive them, as they were now distant about a mile, and beginning to show their strength. Scarcely had we been aware that they were in the vicinity when a terrible shower of bombs and round shot snapped the branches of the trees above and around us, and it was evident that to save ourselves the enemy must receive a check. The First Minnesota regiment was thrown out as skirmishers, and the rifle of musketry soon mingled with the banging of artillery, while on our side Kirby's battery had obtained a good range of the rebels and pounded away at them in no playful or half-way manner. The force of the enemy was so large, however, that the Minnesota boys were soon obliged to fall back, which they did slowly, under Colonel Bully, with the Seventy-first Pennsylvania, Second New York and other regiments rushing to their assistance. The enemy became alarmed and discontinued the battle, retiring cross-fashion to the cover of the forest. This affair occurred between nine and eleven in the morning. Our loss in it was not over one hundred and fifty men in killed, wounded and missing.

This concluded the first of a series of encounters with the enemy, which might be regarded as one grand battle, commencing at Orchard station, and ending at Turkey Grove, on James river.

ON JUNE 30TH WE COMMENCED OUR MARCH.

Destroying what stores we were unable to carry with us, we then left at Savage's station. This gave the enemy time to recuperate, and before five P. M.

THE ENEMY AGAIN CAME IN FORCE.

Near Savage's station, about three miles from Orchard station. He suddenly appeared with cavalry, making a battery of artillery, and with artillery on both flanks and large masses of infantry in the rear, marching in column by brigades, presenting a triple line front of half a mile in extent. Baxter's Zouaves and the First Minnesota were thrown out again to skirmish, and Smith's division took up a position on our left, while Richardson's division protected us from the flanking columns of the rebels on the left. Sedgwick's division formed the center, and maintained his ground well, though the skirmishers were soon hurled back in confusion upon it by the terrific rifle and flanking fire of the enemy. The thrust of this severe action fell on Burns' brigade, and

GENERAL BURNS WAS WOUNDED

by a "rifle musket ball" in the face, which showed on his mustache and, passing through his cheek, came out near his ear. He not only remained unhurt and unmoved, but continued to direct his troops in face of the enemy with unsurpassed gallantry. General Sedgwick subsequently passed high commendation upon him for his heroic conduct. Meanwhile the First California, One Hundred and Sixth Pennsylvania, Second New York and Sixty-ninth Pennsylvania were hotly engaged, and delivered so terrible and destructive a fire into the advancing foe that his onslaught, which was of the most furious and desperate nature, was for the time checked.

FRESH REBELS, WHOSE NAMES CAME FORTH IN

However, thick and fast, and our center began to waver under the terrific assaults of artillery and musketry belated upon our gallant troops.

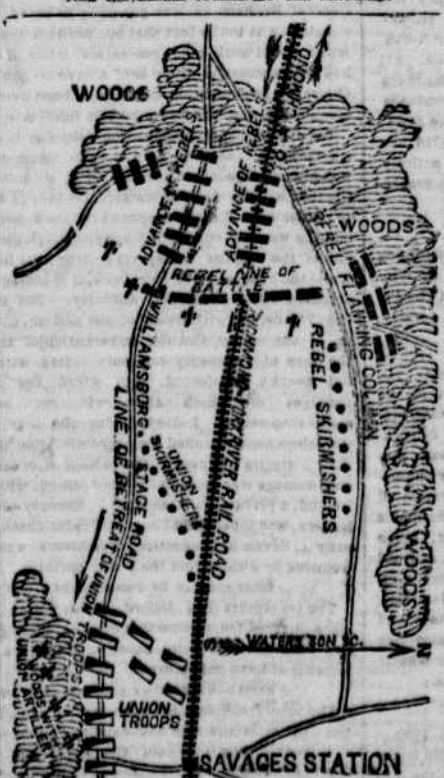
GENERAL McCLELLAN APPEARED ON THE SCENE.

At this juncture General McClellan arrived upon our portion of the field, accompanied by the greater part of his staff. "Let the artillery give them grape and canister," said he, as he fearlessly reached the front of the enemy and exposed himself to it. He received the cheers of the army in the most voluble manner. The order was obeyed instantly. It was now the enemy's turn to waver, and the Eighty-eighth New York, under its gallant leader, Colonel Baker, having been ordered to reinforce the center, came suddenly upon the flank of the rebels with deafening cheers, and reeled them completely, with the exception of 140, which they carried off triumphantly prisoners of war. In the meantime other regiments had closed in upon them, and added to their discomfiture they were shelled from the wood out of which they emerged to commence the engagement. The fight occurred in an open field over a mile in length and three quarters of a mile wide. The struggle was one of the fiercest and most dashing of the war. The contest raged for over three hours in the most desperate manner, and the yell and cheer of the forces on both sides mingled at intervals with the thundering roar of cannon, and the harsh, incessant and deafening roll of musketry. Night alone put an end to this terrific conflict, but until the enemy had been completely and actively routed and driven from the field of battle. General McClellan meanwhile rode among the troops, and always had a word of encouragement for every one.

WHEN ALL DARKNESS WAS OVER

General McClellan left the field and rode towards the front. Our lines in this encounter were heavy, probably as much as eight hundred or nine hundred men in killed and wounded, while the enemy's loss in men is certainly much heavier, perhaps double that of our forces. The accompanying diagram will serve to illustrate the position of the troops in this battle.

THE POSITION OF THE TROOPS IN THIS BATTLE COMMENCED THE WICKHAM.



WE HOLD THE BATTLE FIELD.

Undisturbed, the troops remained in possession of the battle field till eleven o'clock, when our advance guard of the protecting column resumed its line of march towards the James river. At one o'clock that night it reached the White Oak bridge, and at three A. M. of Monday, the 30th of June, our rear guard, consisting of a squadron of the Sixth New York cavalry, passed over, bringing up with them all the stragglers capable of

walking. There were many men, however, who were so completely worn down by fatigue and exhaustion that they must have fallen into the hands of the enemy.

THE SWAMP BRIDGE MOVED UP.

At five o'clock A. M. the bridge over the swamp was blown up, as the head of the enemy's column was soon expected to appear in view.

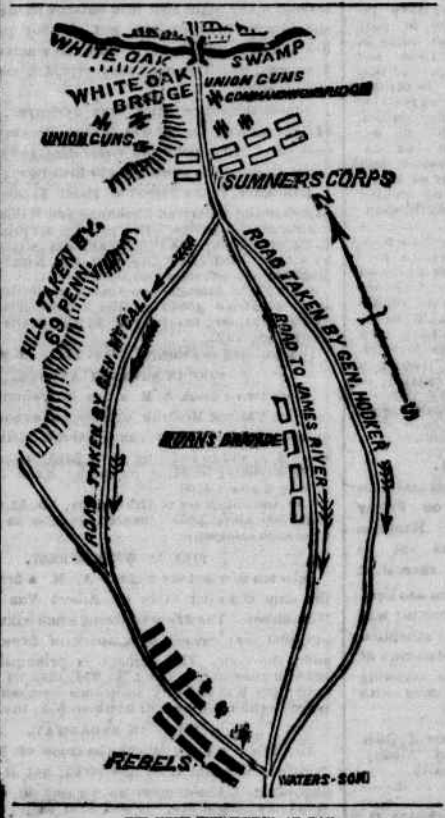
THE RIVER REACHED.

The troops now advanced to a position which they have since rendered memorable in the annals of war. Escorted here in the sweet stillness of a summer morning, the clear whistle of a steam valve is heard in the far distance. "The rebels are running the locomotive," cries one. "Yes, that must be the cars," chimes in another. "Hark! there is another whistle distinctly heard. It is not from the direction of the railroad. No, it is a more welcome sound than that of any locomotive. It comes from

OUR INTERFERING GUNBOATS ON THE JAMES RIVER.

As soon as this point is decided a spontaneous cheer bursts out for our gallant gunboats. The whistle shows us that they are ready to assist us in all to protect us if necessary, and that we are not far from our objective, where we are already awaiting our arrival on the friendly river. Our tolls are not yet, however, over, and one of the bloodiest dramas of the entire war has to be soon enacted before our rash, persevering foe will allow us to form a junction with our friends.

The following diagram shows the position of the woods, the powder, etc., on the battle field.



WE KEEP THE ENEMY AT BAY.

Our artillery prevented the enemy from regaining the White Oak bridge, and we fanned ourselves at rest for a day at least. Many of our men were exhausted, and much of our want of sleep and rest, labor, and, indeed, we were all so weary, that the prospect of even a temporary rest was a great boon to us. There was one and only one favorable circumstance during our retreat. "This was the extraordinary fineness of the weather, which kept the wooded roads in a tolerably passable condition.

ALL WAS QUIET TILL ABOUT FOUR O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON, when we were once more startled by the booming of distant cannon. The rebels could not have passed the broken bridge, for our artillery held that. When, then, could this new unexplained sound be in possible enemy hands in our rear? And such was the reflection of our new position as a shell, and balls began to fall about us with terrible proximity. Without being alarmed, it was evident our rear was very angry in consequence of this new annoyance of the enemy. "Here they come at us again boys; now let us show them how to run from Yankee snags!" This remark is a fair specimen of the spirit which animated Sumner's corps. Meanwhile the artillery of the enemy continued to mow down the branches of a tree and everything else that came in the way of their missiles. Our own guns were not long silent, and, in answer, those of the enemy were soon obliged to slacken their fire. 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